

39. (New) The method of claim 37 wherein said contact layer is attached to the periphery of said bottom surface.

40. (New) The method of claim 35 further comprising the step of performing a coronary artery bypass graft procedure on said heart.

REMARKS

Applicant wishes to inform the Examiner that above-claimed subject matter substantially corresponds to the subject matter of claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 5,836,311 to Borst et al. (The "311 Patent") which issued November 17, 1998. By presenting the foregoing claimx 33 in this application filed herewith on November 15, 1999, Applicant has met the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 135(b). However, Applicant does not presently wish to have an interference declared with the '311 Patent, but reserves the right to do so upon meeting the remaining requirements of 37 CFR § 1.607.

Respectfully submitted,

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